

duty to help those who Scriptures call "the least of these." Neither allows us to ignore the root cause of the terrible suffering that this legislation seeks to address. We should not rush into enacting any ill-advised sanctions; but neither should we continue to look away from a problem we could do so much to eliminate.

In this decade, we have had no opportunity to get to the root of this evil like the one we have today. The hideous war in Sierra Leone has ended; Liberia is rebuilding its economy and society; and United Nations sanctions block the sale of diamonds by UNITA rebels in Angola. Only in the Democratic Republic of Congo do illicit sales of diamonds threaten peace. Now is the time to take preventive action to sever one of the key lifelines of war in Africa.

In preparing this bill, I have learned that diamonds are judged by what experts call "the four C's"—cut, color, clarity, and carat weight. I believe the day is coming when diamonds also are judged by a fifth C—their country of origin. the CARAT Act will ensure consumers know all five C's, and help them—if they choose to do so—use their purchasing power to support those who are using diamond revenues to wage war against their people.

My bill is a simple one, Mr. Speaker. It simply requires gem-quality diamonds imported into the U.S. market to be accompanied by a certificate listing where they were mined. But it will also remind those who depend on our business that Americans are powerful and responsible consumers. It will protect the democratic nations in Africa that depend on diamond revenues. And it enables American consumers to choose not to support the oppressors of African people who have paid too dearly, and for too long, the price of war.

TRIBUTE TO THE TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Torrance Unified School District. This school district has taken the initiative in addressing youth violence by implementing a systemwide program for conflict resolution.

Highlighting themes of compassion, respect, and character, this program works with the students and adults to help them to better understand and manage the conflicts they encounter in their own lives, as well as the challenges that they encounter in society. It also works to eliminate prejudices and further the practices of the nonviolent resolution of conflict.

It is programs like this one that are proactive in preventing the violence at our schools that we have become all too familiar with. It is clear that something must be done to prevent our youth from resorting to violence. Torrance Unified is committed to its students and creating a safer, more peaceful learning environment, as well as a safer community as a whole.

Torrance Unified was recently recognized by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, and it has also been featured at the World Congress on Violence and Human Coexistence in Ireland. This school district will continue to be a model for addressing the tough issues of conflict and youth violence. We need more programs like this one.

I commend the Torrance Unified School District's commitment to conflict resolution and their efforts in creating a safer community for the people of the South Bay. I wish them continued success with this significant program.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAMES ECKMANN

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Mr. James Eckmann. Mr. Eckmann just returned from a volunteer mission with the International Executive Service Corps in El Salvador. During his time Mr. Eckmann provided managerial and technical assistance to improve the lives of the people there.

Specifically, Mr. Eckmann volunteered with Dr. Francisco Jose Barrienjos and provided advice and assistance to Dr. Barrienjos' small law firm on various aspects of working with American law firms and representing American companies. Mr. Eckmann also gave suggestions on client communications, marketing, employee relations, accounting and administrative procedures.

Mr. Eckmann conducted this activity under the auspices of the International Executive Service Corps (IESC), an international management and business development organization. IESC has provided assistance to more than 21,000 projects during the last thirty-four years to business, government and nonprofit groups around the world.

James Eckmann deserves our congratulations for a job well done. I know that he is proud of his accomplishments, and I am proud to have him as my constituent.

ANTHONY SAPP—NFL TEACHER OF THE MONTH

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Anthony Wayne Sapp, a mathematics teacher at Charles D. Owen High School in Black Mountain, North Carolina was named the NFL Teacher of the Month for the Month of September. The National Football League will grant a cash award of \$2,500 to Mr. Sapp and \$5,000 to Owen High School as part of this program.

Mr. Sapp has taught at Owen High School for 22 years, specializing in mathematics. In addition to his regular load of classes, Mr. Sapp also is the coach of the high school

math team, which consistently represents the school well at competition and has produced many exemplary performances by its members. It was one of Mr. Sapp's former students, and an exemplary performer himself, who nominated Mr. Sapp for this honor: Quarterback Brad Johnson of the Washington Redskins.

Brad Johnson, a native of Western North Carolina, has been very active in community service with organizations such as Children's Miracle Network and the United Way of America. Of course, many would more likely know the work he has done to propel the Redskins back into the ranks of the elite in the National Football League. I am very proud of these two native sons of Western North Carolina who have proven time and again to be among the elite in their respective fields. And once again, I commend Anthony Wayne Sapp for his achievements.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2064, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering the conference report on the so-called Labor-HHS FY2000 appropriation measure, even though this measure has not even been voted on by the House. Instead, this Republican leadership decided to pre-conference the Senate measure and attach it to the conference report of the DC Appropriations legislation.

This Labor-HHS appropriations measure is one of the largest and most important measures we take up in each year. It is a massive piece of legislation. The committee report itself numbers hundreds of pages. It covers some of the most important programs that this Government funds—our public education system, the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Yet, the Republican leaders decided this measure is too contentious for proper floor debate. So, they opted to pre-conference this measure with the Senate passed bill.

This process is deplorable. It flies in the face of the Constitution. Article I, Section 7 states that "all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution is not a rough draft. We cannot decide to ignore it because the bill will be too controversial for the floor and we are running out of precious time.

The bill must originate in the House of Representatives. We must be given the opportunity to debate and amend this measure. Only then can the Senate offer its amendments to this legislation.

All too often in recent years, we have faced similar situations where Congress has failed to enact its 13 separate annual appropriation bills in a timely manner. However, this does not mean we can fly in the face of the Constitution.